

DIE WHEN I MAY
WANT IT SAID
PLUCKED TWISTLE

on Feb 12

DRAWER

6A

71 200 015 0100

Epiphany Quotations

Abraham Lincoln Quotations & Sayings

Spurious

“Die When I May I Want it
Said...Plucked a Thistle...”

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Memphis News Republican

Feb 18 1863



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

DIE WHEN I MAY, I WANT IT SAID OF ME BY THOSE WHO
KNOW ME BEST, THAT I ALWAYS PLUCKED A THISTLE AND
PLANTED A FLOWER WHERE I THOUGHT IT WOULD GROW. —
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ALBERT MITCHELL
BRUCE CHAPMAN

THE ANSWER MAN
55 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 18, NEW YORK
WISCONSIN 7-9244

A radio service
to the general
public without
charge. We try
to answer any
question of fact
a listener may
ask.

Feb. 6, 1951

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Thanks a lot for your kind help in the past.
And, once more, I must ask for assistance.

Several listeners have asked:

"Can you give me the exact quotation
about plucking a thistle and planting
a flower -- which is attributed to
Lincoln? I can't seem to find it?"

"Is there a statue of Lincoln in London?
And if so, when and why was it placed
there?"

Any information that you may be able to give
me will be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,

BRUCE CHAPMAN

jp

BROADCAST OVER

WNBC	NEW YORK
WGN	CHICAGO
WHAM	ROCHESTER
KYW	PHILADELPHIA
WBZ	BOSTON
WBZA	SPRINGFIELD
WPRO	PROVIDENCE

THE DON LEE
NETWORK

IN EUROPE

ENGLISH	FRENCH
GERMAN	POLISH
AUSTRIAN	DUTCH

FOR THE
MARSHALL PLAN

February 27, 1951

Mr. Bruce Chapman
55 West 42nd Street
New York, 18, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The alleged quotation of Abraham Lincoln's which reads:
"Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best,
that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought
a flower would grow" is not an authentic quotation but rather a
paraphrase from a Eulogy of Abraham Lincoln presented by Henry
Champion Deming on June 8, 1865 in which he quotes Lincoln as
saying, "I have never willingly planted a thorn in any man's bosom."

A bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln carved by Augustus
St. Gaudens stands in Parliament Square in London. It was presented
by the United States, dedicated on July, 1920, and commemorates
a century of peace between Great Britain and United States.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
Secretary to Dr. Warren

m/m

Joshua F. Speed, a lifelong friend of Abraham Lincoln related an incident on Lincoln's pardoning power, found on page 525 of Herndon & Weik's "Life of Lincoln", first edition. This incident took place during the closing hours of the Rebellion. Mr. Speed related the incident as follows:

- - - - -

"When I entered his office, (at the White House) it was quite full, and many more among them not a few Senators and members of Congress - still waiting. As soon as I was fairly inside, the President remarked that he desired to see me as soon as he was through giving audiences, and that if I had nothing to do I could take the papers and amuse myself in that or any other way I saw fit till he was ready. In the room, when I entered, I observed sitting near the fireplace, dressed in humble attire, two ladies modestly waiting their turn. One after another of the visitors came and went, each bent on his own particular errand, some satisfied and others evidently displeased at the result of their mission.

The hour had arrived to close the door against all further callers. No one was left in the room now except the President, the two ladies, and me. With a rather peevish and fretful air he turned to them and said, "well, ladies, what can I do for you"? They both commenced to speak at once. From what they said he soon learned that one was the wife and the other the mother of two men imprisoned for resisting the draft in western Pennsylvania. 'Stop,' said he, 'don't say any more. Give me your petition'. The old lady responded, 'Mr. Lincoln, we've got no petition; we couldn't write one and had no money to pay for writing one, and I thought best to come and see you'. 'Oh,' said he, 'I understand your cases'. He rang his bell and ordered one of the messengers to tell General Dana to bring him the names of all the men in prison for resisting the draft in western Pennsylvania. The General soon came with the list. He inquired if there was any difference in the charges or degrees of guilt. The General replied that he knew of none. 'Well, then,' said he, 'these fellows have suffered long enough, and I have thought so far some time, and now that my mind is on the subject I believe I will turn out the whole flock. So, draw up the order, General, and I will sign it! It was done and the General left the room.

Turning to the women he said, 'Now, ladies, you can go'. The younger of the two ran forward and was in the act of kneeling in thankfulness. 'Get up' he said, 'don't kneel to me, but thank God and go! The old lady now came forward with tears in her eyes to express her gratitude. 'Good-bye, Mr. Lincoln,' said she; 'I shall probably never see you again till we meet in heaven'. These were her exact words. She had the President's hand in hers, and he was deeply moved. He instantly took her right hand in both of his, and, following her to the door, said, 'I am afraid with all my troubles I shall never get to the resting-place you speak of; but

if I do I am sure I shall find you. That you wish me to get there is, I believe, the best wish you could make me. Good-bye'.

We were alone now. I said to him, 'Lincoln, with my knowledge of your nervous sensibility, it is a wonder that such scenes as this don't kill you'. He thought for a moment and then answered in languid voice, 'Yes, you are to a certain degree right. I ought not to under go what I so often do. I am very unwell now; my feet and hands of late seem to be always cold, and I ought perhaps to be in bed; but things of the sort you have just seen don't hurt me, for, to tell you the truth, that scene is the only thing today that has made me forget my condition or given me any pleasure. I have, in that order, made two people happy and alleviated the distress of many a poor soul whom I never expect to see. 'That old lady,' he continued, 'was no counterfeit'. The mother spoke out in all the features of her face. It is more than one can often say that in doing right one has made two people happy in one day. Speed, die when I may, I want it said of me by those who know me best, and always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow'. What a fitting sentiment! What a glorious recollection"!





